

THE NORTH BAY PROGRESS

Serving all of Solano County

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Towards a New Agenda:

Mapping Out a New Agenda for Vallejo's African-American Community

Frank Jackson, a long-time Vallejo resident, is the latest president of the Vallejo branch of the NAACP. Jackson, who heads his own consulting firm, has long labored in the field of civil rights in the Vallejo community. During a recent interview with a North Bay Progress Editor-in-Chief Sharon R. McGriff, Jackson spoke of some of the goals and objectives of the NAACP will work towards:

Q. How do you plan to improve the political, educational, social and economic status of the city's African-American community?

A. We plan to meet with city officials, such as the fire and police chief, city department heads, county supervisors and area probation officers.,

Q. How will you keep the public aware of the adverse effects of racial discrimination?

A. Through our newsletter, press releases, letter to the editor columns and by visiting neighborhood groups.

Q. What about academic achievement among African-American students? How does the NAACP plan to address the drop out rate increase enrollment and the number of African American students graduating from institutions of higher learning?

A. By checking the progress reports of students at risk, encouraging parent involvement, meet with teachers, counselors, principals and the Superintendent of Education to determine the causes of suspensions, expulsions and dropouts.

Q. Will the NAACP organize a campaign involving community groups and churches?

A. Yes, by meeting with ministers, talking to church congregations, and visiting neighborhood group meetings.

Q. How do you plan to maximize the human and financial resources of the African-American community?

A. By encouraging the patronage of African-American businesses. We need to stop the demeaning talk, such



Frank Jackson
President, NAACP, Vallejo Branch

as 'this food is bad,' or 'they didn't repair it right.'" In other communities such as Japanese, Korean, Filipino, and Arab, their dollars turn over at least three or four times. Our dollars turn over only one time.

New Beginnings

Starting anything can be more headache than fun. Launching a newspaper is no different, especially with its mix of writers and deadlines. But, I have to say that the creation of The North Bay Progress has been more joy than pain.

For years, while toiling in somebody else's newsroom, I toyed with the idea of starting my own newspaper. This newspaper, I thought, would address issues that were only glossed over by general-circulation newspapers or, in many cases, just plain ignored.

With the publication of The North Bay Progress, not only has a long-time dream been fulfilled, we are hopeful that some new ideas, and new insight regarding our community — the African-American Community — may be shared and interwoven into the tapestry of Solano County.

The North Bay Progress is looking to you, the community, for any assistance you can lend to us. If you have a special event, special program or special place you think should be covered, call us at (707) 644-9296.

Case Had Many Vallejo Connections

Area Legislators Attempt to Clear Records of Port Chicago Sailors

By Sharon R. McGriff

The force of the blast nearly knocked Arthur Scott, a Vallejo resident, off his chair. It was July 17, 1944, but Scott, who had just launched a monthly Black newspaper. The Vallejo Observer, was unaware of where or what caused the explosion.

"I knew something major had happened because I could hear the loud-speakers going off at Mare Island all night," said Scott who was living in the Solano Apartments just outside of Mare Island's gates.

It would be nearly 24 hours before Scott, and most of the city's residents would discover that the enormous blast

occured at nearby Port Chicago and that the explosion left 320 people—most of them African-American's dead.

Today, the case of what was to become the Port Chicago Mutiny, continues to draw interest. Area legislators, led by Congressman Ron V. Dellums (D-Berkeley), and Congressman George Miller (D-Pleasant Hill), have recently drawn up a bill that seeks to restore the rank and privileges and give monetary relief to 50 sailors who were subsequently court-martialed and jailed for their refusal to load munitions ships following the explosion.

THE EXPLOSION AND ITS AFTERMATH

Because the nation was at war in 1944, news of what happened and the

number of deaths at the munitions base was not easy to come by. But

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SPEAK UP

Taking Responsibility

By Anthony Wildeman

I use drugs, I sell drugs and associate with many who do the same as I do.

But I strongly, strongly suggest, I suggest, that you, my child, avoid such dealings.

I verbally abuse my wife.

I physically abuse my wife and associate with many who do the same as I do.

But I strongly, strongly suggest, I suggest, that you, my child, avoid such dealings.

I show no one respect. Why should I?

Who in this damn world deserves it?

I associate with many that share my personal views.

But you, my child, when you find that person, that special person that deserves respect, bring him to me so I can see him too.

But I strongly, strongly suggest, I suggest, that you, my child, respect me because I am your Father.

You may feel the content of the poem you just read is cold and heartless. I too find it cold and heartless, but in many instances, it epitomizes the moods of parents and so-called grown-ups in our society today.

As adults we are, at times, quick to say the youth of today are so irresponsible, yet we as adults, are even quicker to respond to a negative situation with the phrase "I don't want to get involved" or the ever present "I don't want to be responsible." Sound familiar?

In the last six months, I have personally seen a fist fight between a mother and her daughter, a grown-up son tell his father to get the f--- out of his face, a 38-year-old great-grandmother, a six year old refer to his father as stupid to his face and the riddled body of a young man shot several times with an automatic weapon. Unfortunately, I can go on.

What or whom do we blame? Who's the culprit in these sins against God and man? Are you, me, the government, society, family, TV, radio, movies the blame for all these sins?

I don't use drugs. I don't sell drugs and I associate with many who do the same as I do. And I strongly, strongly suggest that you, my child, do the same.

I verbally praise my wife. I physically praise my wife and associate with many who do the same as I do. And I strongly, suggest that you, my child, do the same.

I respect everyone for the mere fact that they are a human being, not perfect, but a human being. I associate with many that share my views. But, when you find that person that does not deserve respect, bring him to me so that I can show you a feature in that person that deserves respect. And I strongly, strongly suggest that you, my child, respect others and respect me.

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News Briefs

Nation

CIVIL RIGHTS MATRIARCH HONORED WITH BUST

If you are visiting the Washington, D.C., area, stop by and look at the 2-foot-tall bronze sculpture of Rosa Parks, the civil rights pioneer whose refusal to move to the back of a Montgomery, Ala. bus sparked a major aspect of the civil rights movement. The bust, created by Artis Lane and commissioned by Anheuser-Busch, is on display at the National Portrait Gallery in the nation's capitol.

HAMMER DOLL TO DEBUT IN FALL

Mattel, which gave Barbie and Ken life more than 30 years ago, is keeping up with the times with its recent an-

nouncement that it will make a 12-inch M.C. Hammer doll.

The hip fashion doll, which will retail for about \$20, will make its debut in the fall.

World

TORRIES BACK A BLACK CANDIDATE

John Taylor, 38, recently became the first non-white Conservative member of the Parliament following an ill-fated attempt by other Conservative Party dissidents to overthrow his candidacy.

The national elections are to be held sometime before mid-1992.

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BOTTOM LINE

Small Business Matters

By Paul Terry,
Small Business Advisor

Q: Once started, what management skills are needed to stay in business and expand successfully?

A: Staying in business successfully requires developing skills that will match the increased complexity of the expanding business. This includes time management, financial analysis, access to resources, commitment to marketing and attention to personnel development.

In any micro business an excellent personal time management system will be needed! Procrastination and diversion are common. A solution: take a five minute reward for every 55 minutes of business-related work. Another: review all work at the end of the day and highlight all the significant tasks completed as an appropriate reward—work did get done.

As you generate more transactions you will need a good tracking system and accurate financial statements. You may do them yourself or use an outside expert but the statements and the analysis must get done. One client "gets it done" by using a contracted accountant to prepare statements and then meets with the accountant for a one hour review every month.

As the business grows, more resources are needed — accountant,

attorney, consultants, industry information, vendor support and perhaps investors. Hint: build a team of professionals in the start-up phase and use them as you grow. Another: develop a team of advisors and use their support and good advice.

Staying in business really means a commitment to marketing: finding and keeping customers. Stay close to them. Ask what they like, what they want and what they would like improved. Note that personal referrals will bring in a majority of the business. Suggestion: send a relevant article to clients on a monthly basis to keep the client informed and connected.

As you grow, you'll discover you cannot do it all alone. You will need committed and trained personnel. They may exceed your skills with accounting, developing sales leads or waiting on customers. However you are the visionary and the motivator who will develop staff and grow the business. Develop the skills to match the complexity and you will succeed in business.

Paul Terry is a small business advisor in business planning for financial, marketing and management issues for growth, start-ups, partnership facilitations and buy/sell transactions.

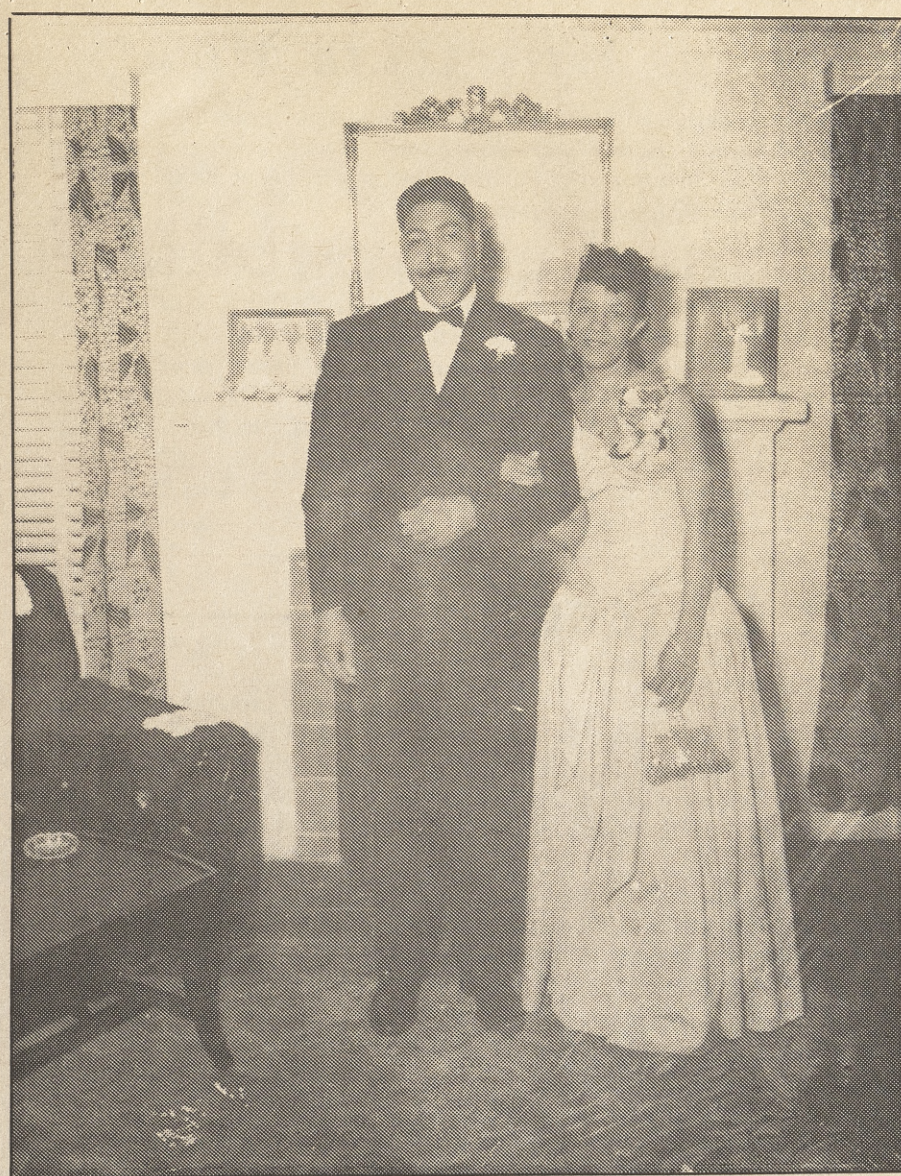
Reprinted courtesy of the San Francisco Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center newsletter.

Seminars for Business Owners

So you're interested in starting your own business? Acquiring the necessary knowledge to stay in business is essential. The Solano County Small Business Development Center has scheduled a number of seminars designed to assist those just starting or those business owners wanting to improve their business savvy. Seminars include:

April 25, 1991	In Suisun	In Fairfield
6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.		Fairfield-Suisun Community Library
May 13, 1991	In Vacaville	Fairfield-Suisun Meeting Room
6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.		1150 Kentucky Street
June 10, 1991	In Vallejo	In Vacaville
6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.		Vacaville Chamber of Commerce
July 18, 1992	In Fairfield	Vacaville City Council Chamber
6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.		400 East Monte Vista Avenue
August 14, 1991	In Vacaville	
6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.		
September 24, 1991	In Vallejo	In Vallejo
6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.		John F. Kennedy Library,
October 17, 1991	In Suisun	Joseph Room
6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.		505 Santa Clara Street
November 13, 1991	In Vacaville	
6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.		
December 10, 1991	In Vallejo	In Suisun
6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.		Suisun Chamber of Commerce
		Suisun City Council Chamber
		701 Civic Center Drive

The Vallejo Branch of the NAACP meets every fourth Thursday in the Vallejo Unified School District administration office, 211 Valle Vista Avenue, Vallejo. Call (707) 554-4993 for information.



OUR PAST

Photo: Arthur Scott,
The Vallejo Observer

Charles Logan, pictured with his wife, Margaret, in a photo taken in the 1940s. Logan operated the Elite Dining Room, one of Vallejo's dining spots in the downtown area.

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Videos With Us In Mind

Editor's Note: Searching for that special videotape geared to African-American children? Or, are you looking for early films starring African-American actors and actresses? The following is a listing of companies that specialize in African-American videos. Enjoy!

A.M. Video, One Hallidie Plaza, Suite 701, San Francisco, (415) 751-3268;
Alternative Videos, 837 Exposition Avenue, Dallas, TX 75226, (214) 823-6030.
BlaCast Entertainment, 199-19 Linden Blvd., San Albans, NY 11412, (718) 712-2300. Foothill Video, P.O. Box 547, Tujunga, CA 91043, (818) 353-8591.
Mypheduh Films, 48 Q Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20002, (202) 529-0220.
Phoenix Film & Video, 468 Park Ave., South, New York, NY 10016, (800) 221-1274. Rhapsody Film, P.O. Box 179, New York, NY 10014, (212) 243-0152.
William Greaves Productions, 80 8th Ave., Suite 1708, New York, NY 10011, (212) 206-1213.—ED.

Port Chicago

Continued from page 1

news in the community began to circulate that a large number of African-American men—202 were sailors—had died while loading ammunition about a boat at the facility.

Following the accident, more than 250 sailors—many of them traumatized by the explosion, refused to load ammunitions. Their refusal brought a swift, and punitive, response from Navy officials: 208 sailors were court-martialed and 50 were charged with conspiracy, a charge that could have brought the death penalty because the country was at war. While awaiting trial, many of the sailors were jailed at

Mare Island.

The case was brought to the attention of Thurgood Marshall, then an attorney for the NAACP Defense Fund, via a letter from the Vallejo NAACP. Marshall, who called the case an "outrage," came West to monitor the six week trial.

Despite the involvement of Marshall, the NAACP and many others, the men were sentenced to 15 years in prison, demoted in rank and discharged dishonorably from the service.

For information regarding the Port Chicago Mutiny Case Legislation contact the offices of Congressman Dellums at (415) 763-0320 or Congressman Miller at (415) 687-3260.

Minority Coalition Against Cigarettes Jubilant Over City Council's Ban On Vending Machines In City Of Vallejo

Thanks to the tenacious work of the Minority Coalition Against Cancer Prevention, cigarette vending machines in Vallejo are a thing of the past.

"We feel we deserve a pat on the back," said Renee Thompson, a member of the coalition after her office learned that the Vallejo City Council voted 6-1 to ban more than 150 vending machines from businesses, schools and agencies throughout the city.

The ban against the vending machines—just one of the measures the Cancer Coalition plans to take against nicotine — teamed the organization with the Solano County Cancer Prevention Coalition and other agencies.

In addition to the ban on vending machines, the City Council approved a prohibition on free distribution of tobacco products at public events, including the Solano County Fair.

"It (cigarettes) are a simple pleasure that is affordable despite the longterm death sentence it gives," said Becky Knobloch, director of the minority coalition.

The Minority Coalition was formed to educate the county's African-

American population about the dangers of tobacco products. High-profile in its stand against cigarette products, organization members appear at a variety of programs within the community to spread their message.

For information regarding the Minority Coalition call (707) 553-5543.

Marketplace

Mary Kay cosmetics available through independent beauty consultant D. Porter. Call (415) 430-0469 for more information.

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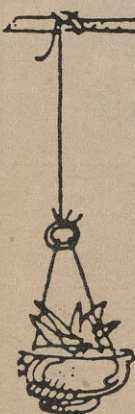
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